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H.105

Introduced by Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington,  
Burke of Brattleboro, Chesnut-Tangerman of  
Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Gonzalez of  
Winooski, Jewett of Ripton, Krowinski of Burlington, LaLonde  
of South Burlington, Lenex of Shelburne, Masland of Thetford,  
McCullough of Williston, Morris of Bennington, Olsen of  
Londonderry, Russell of Rutland City, Till of Jericho,  
Townsend of South Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham, Wright  
of Burlington, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Zagar of Barnard

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Crimes; lewd and indecent conduct; voyeurism

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create  
criminal sanctions and civil remedies for the display or disclosure of sexually  
explicit images without the subject's knowledge and consent.

An act relating to disclosure of sexually explicit images without consent

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

1 ~~Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 2605 is amended to read:~~

2 § 2605. VOYEURISM

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) “Bona fide private investigator or bona fide security guard” means  
5 an individual lawfully providing services, whether licensed or unlicensed,  
6 pursuant to 26 V.S.A. §§ 3151 and 3151a.

7 (2) “Female breast” means any portion of the female breast below the  
8 top of the areola.

9 (3) “Circumstances in which a person has a reasonable expectation of  
10 privacy” means circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe that  
11 his or her intimate areas or engagement in sexual conduct would not be visible  
12 to the public, regardless of whether that person is in a public or private area.

13 This definition includes circumstances in which:

14 (A) a person knowingly disrobes or engages in sexual conduct in  
15 front of another, but does not expect nor give consent for the other person to  
16 photograph, film, or record his or her intimate areas or sexual conduct;

17 (B) a person knowingly disrobes or engages in sexual conduct in  
18 front of another and gives consent for the other person to photograph, film, or  
19 record his or her intimate areas or sexual conduct, but not to display or disclose  
20 the photograph, film, or recording to a third party.

1 ~~(4) "Intimate areas" means the naked or undergarment clad genitals,~~  
2 public area, buttocks, or female breast of a person.

3 (5) "Place where a person has a reasonable expectation of  
4 privacy" means:

5 (A) a place in which a reasonable person would believe that he or she  
6 could disrobe in privacy, without his or her undressing being viewed by  
7 another; or

8 (B) a place in which a reasonable person would expect to be safe  
9 from unwanted intrusion or surveillance.

10 (6) "Sexual conduct" shall have the same meaning as in section 2821 of  
11 this title.

12 (7) "Surveillance" means secret observation of the activities of another  
13 person for the purpose of spying upon and invading the privacy of the person.

14 ~~(7)~~(8) "View" means the intentional looking upon another person for  
15 more than a brief period of time, in other than a casual or cursory manner, with  
16 the unaided eye or a device designed or intended to improve visual acuity.

17 (b) No person shall intentionally view, photograph, film, or record in  
18 any format:

19 (1) the intimate areas of another person without that person's knowledge  
20 and consent while the person being viewed, photographed, filmed, or recorded

1 ~~is in a place where he or she would have a reasonable expectation of~~

2 privacy; or

3 (2) the intimate areas of another person without that person's knowledge  
4 and consent and under circumstances in which the person has a reasonable  
5 expectation of privacy.

6 (c) No person shall intentionally or knowingly display or disclose to a  
7 third party:

8 (1) any image recorded in violation of subsection (b), (d), or (e) of  
9 this section;

10 (2) any photograph, film, or recording of another person whose intimate  
11 areas are exposed or who is engaged in sexual conduct under circumstances in  
12 which a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy without the subject's  
13 knowledge and consent to the display or disclosure;

14 (3) any digital or otherwise altered image of another person to  
15 fraudulently portray that person with exposed intimate areas or engaged in  
16 sexual conduct without the subject's knowledge and consent to the display  
17 or disclosure.

18 (d) No person shall intentionally conduct surveillance or intentionally  
19 photograph, film, or record in any format a person without that person's  
20 knowledge and consent while the person being surveilled, photographed,  
21 filmed, or recorded is in a place where he or she would have a reasonable

1 ~~expectation of privacy within a home or residence. Bona fide private~~

2 investigators and bona fide security guards engaged in otherwise lawful  
3 activities within the scope of their employment are exempt from  
4 this subsection.

5 (e) No person shall intentionally photograph, film, or record in any format  
6 a person without that person's knowledge and consent while that person is in a  
7 place where a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy and that person is  
8 engaged in a sexual act as defined in section 3251 of this title conduct.

9 (f) This section shall apply to a person who intentionally views,  
10 photographs, films, or records the intimate areas of a person as part of a  
11 security or theft prevention policy or program at a place of business.

12 (g) This section shall not apply to:

13 (1) to a law enforcement officer conducting official law enforcement  
14 activities in accordance with ~~state~~ State and federal law; ~~or~~

15 (2) to official activities of the Department of Corrections, a law  
16 enforcement agency, the Agency of Human Services, or a court for security  
17 purposes or during the investigation of alleged misconduct by a person in the  
18 custody of the Department of Corrections, a law enforcement agency, the  
19 Agency of Human Services, or a court; or

1 ~~(3) if the photograph, film, or recording was created under an agreement~~  
2 by the person appearing in the image for its public use, display, or disclosure  
3 or otherwise intended by that person for public use, display, or disclosure.

4 (h) This section is not intended to infringe upon the freedom of the press to  
5 gather and disseminate news as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the  
6 Constitution of the United States.

7 (i) It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of subsection (b) of this  
8 section that the defendant was a bona fide private investigator or bona fide  
9 security guard conducting surveillance in the ordinary course of business, and  
10 the violation was unintentional and incidental to otherwise legal surveillance.  
11 However, an unintentional and incidental violation of subsection (b) of this  
12 section shall not be a defense to a violation of subsection (c) of this section.

13 (j)(1) For a first offense, a person who violates subsection (b), (d), or (e) of  
14 this section shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than  
15 \$1,000.00, or both. For a second or subsequent offense, a person who violates  
16 subsection (b), (d), or (e) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than  
17 three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

18 (2) A person who violates ~~subsection (e)~~ subdivision (c)(1) of this  
19 section shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than  
20 \$5,000.00, or both. A person who violates subdivision (c)(2) or (c)(3) of this

1 ~~section shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than~~  
2 ~~\$3,000.00, or both.~~

3 ~~(k)(1) A plaintiff shall have a private cause of action against a defendant~~  
4 ~~who, without the plaintiff's knowledge and consent, causes the plaintiff~~  
5 ~~emotional distress or economic loss by intentionally displaying or disclosing to~~  
6 ~~a third party:~~

7 ~~(A) any image of the plaintiff recorded in violation of subsection (b),~~  
8 ~~(d), or (e) of this section; or~~

9 ~~(B) any photograph, film, or recording of the plaintiff whose intimate~~  
10 ~~areas are exposed or who is engaged in sexual conduct under circumstances in~~  
11 ~~which a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy;~~

12 ~~(C) any digital or otherwise altered image of the plaintiff to~~  
13 ~~fraudulently portray the plaintiff with exposed intimate areas or engaged in~~  
14 ~~sexual conduct without the plaintiff's knowledge and consent to the display~~  
15 ~~or disclosure.~~

16 ~~(2) In addition to any other relief available at law, the Court may order~~  
17 ~~equitable relief, including a temporary restraining order, a preliminary~~  
18 ~~injunction, or a permanent injunction ordering the defendant to cease display~~  
19 ~~or disclosure of the image. The Court may grant injunctive relief maintaining~~  
20 ~~the confidentiality of a plaintiff using a pseudonym.~~

1 ~~(3) The Court may also grant, after holding a properly noticed hearing,~~  
2 ~~reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the prevailing plaintiff.~~

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 ~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.~~

*Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 2605 is amended to read:*

*§ 2605. VOYEURISM*

*(a) As used in this section:*

*\* \* \**

*(6) "Sexual conduct" shall have the same meaning as in section 2821 of this title.*

*(7) "Surveillance" means secret observation of the activities of another person for the purpose of spying upon and invading the privacy of the person.*

*~~(7)~~(8) "View" means the intentional looking upon another person for more than a brief period of time, in other than a casual or cursory manner, with the unaided eye or a device designed or intended to improve visual acuity.*

*\* \* \**

*(e) No person shall intentionally photograph, film, or record in any format a person without that person's knowledge and consent while that person is in a place where a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy and that person is engaged in a sexual act as defined in section 3251 of this title conduct.*

*\* \* \**

*Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 2606 is added to read:*

§ 2606. DISCLOSURE OF SEXUALLY EXPLICIT IMAGES WITHOUT  
CONSENT

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Disclose” includes transfer, publish, distribute, exhibit, or reproduce.

(2) “Minor” means a person less than 18 years of age.

(3) “Nude” means any one or more of the following uncovered parts of the human body:

(A) genitals;

(B) pubic area;

(C) buttocks; or

(D) female breast below the top of the areola.

(4) “Sexual conduct” shall have the same meaning as in section 2821 of this title.

(5) “Visual image” includes a photograph, film, videotape, recording, or digital reproduction.

(b)(1) No person shall knowingly disclose a visual image of an identifiable person who is nude or who is engaged in sexual conduct when the actor knows or should have known that the depicted person did not consent to the disclosure. A person may be identifiable from the image itself or information

displayed in connection with the image. Consent to recording of the visual image does not, by itself, constitute consent for disclosure of the image. Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, a person who violates this subdivision shall be imprisoned not more than six months or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(2) No person shall violate subdivision (1) of this subsection with the intent to harm the person depicted in the image. Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, a person who violates this subdivision shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

(3) A delinquency petition shall be filed in the Family Division of the Superior Court for a minor who violates subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection. The minor may be referred to the Juvenile Diversion Program of the district in which the action is filed.

(4) No person shall violate subdivision (1) of this subsection with the intent of disclosing the image for profit or knowingly maintain an Internet website, online service, online application, or mobile application for the purpose of disclosing such images. A person who violates this subdivision shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

(c) A person who maintains an Internet website, online service, online application, or mobile application that contains a visual image of an identifiable person who is nude or who is engaged in sexual conduct shall not solicit or accept a fee or other consideration to remove, delete, correct, modify, or refrain from posting or disclosing the visual image if requested by the depicted person.

(d) This section shall not apply to:

(1) Images involving voluntary ~~exposure~~ nudity or sexual conduct in public or commercial settings, or in a place where a person does not have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

(2) Disclosures made in the public interest, including the reporting of unlawful conduct, or lawful and common practices of law enforcement, criminal reporting, corrections, legal proceedings, or medical treatment.

(3) Disclosures of materials that constitute a matter of public concern.

(4) Interactive computer services, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230(f)(2), or information services or telecommunications services, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153, for content provided by another person. This subdivision shall not preclude other remedies available at law.

(e)(1) A plaintiff shall have a private cause of action against a defendant who violates subsection (b) of this section and causes the plaintiff emotional distress or economic loss.

(2) In addition to any other relief available at law, the Court may order equitable relief, including a temporary restraining order, a preliminary injunction, or a permanent injunction ordering the defendant to cease display or disclosure of the image. The Court may grant injunctive relief maintaining the confidentiality of a plaintiff using a pseudonym.

*Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE*

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.